

DISCOVER.

Master Naturalist programs enhance people's love of nature with research-based training and community-based volunteer service.



West Virginia Master Naturalist Program Sponsors:

West Virginia
Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
Parks and Recreation Section
Canaan Valley Institute
Davis and Elkins College
West Virginia Division of Tourism
West Virginia University
Extension Service

For more information contact:

WV Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
Wildlife Diversity Program
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Elkins, WV 26241
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www.wvdnr.gov

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Learn about West Virginia's Natural Wonders



A NEW INITIATIVE FROM THE
WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DISCOVER. LEARN. SHARE.

What is the WV Master Naturalist Program?

The West Virginia Master Naturalist Program, through coursework, volunteer opportunities and networking, allows individuals to increase their knowledge and appreciation of the natural world while helping their communities and the environment.

Training is offered in a broad range of specialties in the fields of natural history and environmental education. Topics include mushrooms, wildflowers, insects, snakes, birds, mammals, habitats, weather, geology, fossils, nature interpretation and teaching, and more, all from a West Virginia perspective. Coursework plus volunteer time qualify the trainee for certification as a West Virginia Master Naturalist.

Who can participate?

Anyone over 16 years of age, with an interest in natural history, is welcome to take part.



How can I be certified as a Master Naturalist?

To be certified you must complete 64 hours of classroom and field training (48 hours of core classes and 16 hours of electives). You may take from one to four years to complete this coursework. You must also complete 30 hours of volunteer work. To maintain certification, eight hours of training and 16 hours of volunteer time are required each year.



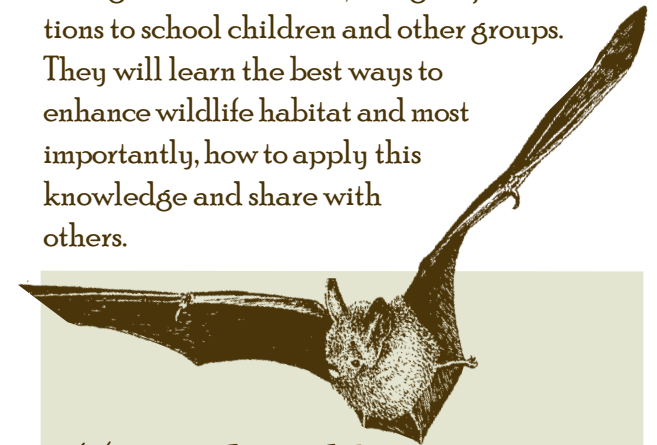
Where and when are the courses taught?

Classes hosted by the Wildlife Diversity Program are taught at various sites around West Virginia on four weekends, usually between March and November. Each training weekend includes about 16 hours of classes.

Beginning in 2005, Master Naturalist classes (covering the same subject matter) will be hosted by local groups for their local areas. Locally hosted classes are designed to reduce travel, be convenient for individuals with busy schedules and generally meet the needs of the people involved. If you are interested in getting a Master Naturalist class started in your area, call the WV Master Naturalist Coordinator at (304)637-0245.

What activities can a Master Naturalist do?

Master naturalists help construct and maintain nature trails, lead interpretive walks at state parks, assist biologists with research, and give presentations to school children and other groups. They will learn the best ways to enhance wildlife habitat and most importantly, how to apply this knowledge and share with others.



The West Virginia Master Naturalist program...

Increases knowledge and appreciation of the natural world.

Encourages effective environmental stewardship.

Creates a pool of knowledgeable volunteers to educate others and to assist in natural history related projects and research.